

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 001382

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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EXDIS

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TAGS: PFOR, EETW, MILI, CH, UK, JA

SUBJECT: IMPLICATIONS FOR JAPANESE OF UK SPEY ENGINE
SALE

REF: 75 TOKYO 18313

1. AS RESULT OF SPEY ENGINE SALE TO PRC, DEPARTMENT IS
UNDERTAKING INTER-AGENCY STUDY OF THE BROADER IMPLICA-
TIONS OF WESTERN SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TECH-
NOLOGY TO THE PRC IN TERMS BOTH OF OUR OWN SECURITY
INTERESTS AND OF THE IMPACT ON COUNTRIES SUCH AS JAPAN AND
THE SOVIET UNION. PENDING COMPLETION OF THIS STUDY, ANY
REMARKS TO JAPANESE WILL NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE PRELIMI-
NARY. HOWEVER, YOU MAY PROVIDE JAPANESE FONOFF WITH
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PAGE 02 STATE 001382

FOLLOWING INITIAL OBSERVATIONS IN RESPONSE TO APPROACH

REPORTED REFTEL.

2. BRITISH PROVIDED US WITH SAME INFORMATION ABOUT PROPOSED SALE THAT THEY PRESUMABLY MADE AVAILABLE TO JAPAN AND OTHER-COCOM MEMBERS. WHILE WE DO NOT-UNCRITICALLY ACCEPT ALL ELEMENTS OF THE BRITISH ARGUMENTS, WE DO NOT DISPUTE SOME OF THEIR TECHNICAL JUSTIFICATIONS. MOREOVER, WHILE WE APPRECIATED THE BRITISH JUSTIFICATION FOR SEEKING A COCOM EXCEPTION IN 1973, WE WERE CONCERNED AT THAT TIME

ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS FOR COCOM. WE REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTION. THUS, FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF THE BRITISH AIDE MEMOIRE THIS DECEMBER WE INFORMED THE BRITISH AT A HIGH LEVEL OF OUR VIEW THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR COCOM REVIEW. WE BELIEVE THAT THE COCOM MECHANISM REMAINS THE APPROPRIATE INSTRUMENTALITY FOR DEALING WITH SUCH MATTERS. WE EXPECT THAT THIS PARTICULAR CASE WILL NOT BE A PRECEDENT AND THAT ALL COCOM MEMBERS WILL CONTINUE TO EMPLOY THE CUSTOMARY AND WELL-ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES IN THE FUTURE.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE SPECIFICS OF THE DEAL, WE ARE NOT AWARE OF THE PRECISE TERMS OF THE CONTRACTS AND DO NOT KNOW WHAT PROVISIONS, IF ANY, WERE INCLUDED REGARDING TRANSFERS TO THIRD COUNTRIES. WE RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT AS THE FIRST WESTERN MILITARY SALE OF THIS SCOPE TO THE PRC, THIS DEVELOPMENT HAS BROADER STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS THAN CAN BE DERIVED FROM A NARROW FOCUS ON THE TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ENGINES THEMSELVES. MORE SPECIFICALLY, WE ACCEPT THE VALIDITY OF THE STRATEGIC FACTORS RAISED BY THE FONOFF AND APPRECIATE THE GEOGRAPHIC FACTORS AFFECTING THE JAPANESE REACTION. FOR THIS AND OTHER REASONS WE ARE UNDERTAKING A MORE DETAILED LOOK AT POLITICAL AND SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH SALES TO THE PRC AND WILL BE GLAD TO PROVIDE JAPANESE WITH MORE COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT AT LATER DATE.

4. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE JAPANESE, WE PARTICULARLY WISH TO STRESS THAT WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO PRE-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 001382

SERVING THE INTEGRITY OF THE COCOM CONSULTATIVE FRAMEWORK, WHICH DESPITE OCCASIONAL PROBLEMS HAS SERVED PARTICIPANTS WELL AS MEANS OF KEEPING COMMERCIAL PRESSURES FROM UNDERMINING OUR COMMON SECURITY INTERESTS. INGERSOLL

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